

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Schneider on 2/28/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please incorporate two paragraphs of the abstract into one paragraph by removing the spaces between the two paragraphs.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-6 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art does not teach a quality inspection method for inspecting quality of a finally shaped container obtained by forming a web-like packaging laminated material having folding lines in tube shape, longitudinally sealing the packaging material in the longitudinal direction, filling food into the tube-shaped packaging material, pressing the packaging material at every predetermined interval in the crossing direction and sealing by the transversal seal, cutting at the middle of the transversal seal zone and obtaining a pillow-like preliminary

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forming, and sealing a flap formed by folding along the folding line to the container side wall and/or a container bottom face, comprising: rotating the flap sealed to the container wall around a ridge side where the flap integrally communicates with the container wall to peel the flap from the container wall; returning to a shape of the pillow-like preliminary forming; cutting the container wall to extract the filled food; developing the cut container to prepare a sample body; measuring an edge of the transversal seal zone on the inside of the container over the whole length of the outer surface of the edge for unevenness of the outer surface by a detecting unit, and judging acceptability of the transversal seal zone based on signals from the detecting unit by an analyzing unit; prior art does not teach a pre-processing unit for rotating the flap sealed to the container wall around a ridge side in which the flap integrally communicates with the container wall to peel the flap from the container wall, and for returning to a shape of the pillow-like preliminary form; a cutting unit for cutting the container wall to extract the filled food; a preparing unit for developing the cut container to prepare the desired sampled body; a detecting unit for measuring the edge of the transversal seal zone on the inside of the container for unevenness of the outer surface over whole length of the outer surface of the edge, and an analyzing unit for judging an acceptability of the transversal seal based on signals from the detecting unit.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 7230229, 6806459, 20060255110, 20060175560, 20060026929, 7167803 are in the related field of invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TONY KO whose telephone number is (571)272-1926. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Epps can be reached on 571-272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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TKO

/Georgia Y Epps/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2878